

*Pls file 120 Gerhard von
Mende.*

7 February 1957

SUGGESTED COMMENT ON CI/ICD MEMO 11 JAN 57:

"Investigative Aid -- Possible RIS Exploitation of Ex-Agents
of the German Intelligence Services"

1. From the point of view of our operational capabilities, even the proposed "full record search to identify and check the current status of ex-GIS personnel and Moslem agents known to have worked with either von HENTIG or Dr. GROBBE" would be well over our heads. Moreover, if we are going to tangle with the RIS operations in the Moslem World, I believe we ought to start on another basis than following the trail of HENTIG and GROBBE: we ought first to find out what is known at Headquarters about the personalities known to be involved in RIS/Moslem operations and then follow the trails of those who are most important and accessible. To launch an "initial investigation" directed primarily against HENTIG and GROBBE in Germany, ~~however~~ as a way to make a beginning seems to me a fallacious approach, and unworkable, considering our slender assets.

2. What we actually want at this point is as complete a who's who as possible on RIS/Moslem operations. I believe we can safely assume that the RIS will be using any and all assets, ex-German IS and otherwise, it can round up and that these operations will be very large and ramified in scope. When the Who's Who is in hand, then we can decide on further actual field operations. Such a Who's Who would take quite a lot of time and the coordinated operations of a number of Divisions to produce, and I doubt that, with all the other troubles we have, the Divisions concerned are going to undertake it.

3. Attached please find a target summary prepared by me on 17 January 1956, suggesting the recruitment of Gerhard von MENDE. I am not aware of what disposition was made of it, but assume nothing was done to recruit him. If von MENDE is recruited, he can readily produce a "Who's Who" of Moslems and particularly of those likely to be invited by the RIS to assist in a subversion of the Near East. He can also produce many think-pieces, etc., of great potential usefulness in exploring the ramifications of this proposal.

*Ed knows said he will work with
his connection. **SECRET** not to
to many. The [unclear] appears
to him but suggests first to see whether
might apply.*

*I will tell
Born OK to
explicitly warn
Mende maybe,
w/ ref to
POB document
possibility.
THD*

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